

**South Dakota National Guard  
Public Affairs Office**

2823 West Main St.  
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Phone 605-737-6721  
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil

October 5, 2007  
PAO 10-05-07

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

PIERRE, S.D. – Steven R. Doohen, Hartford, S.D., the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard and the secretary of the South Dakota Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, was promoted to the rank of major general during a ceremony held on Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Capitol Rotunda.

“General Doohen brings many years of experience and expertise, having served as a pilot and wing commander for the South Dakota Air National Guard, along with distinguished leadership roles during his 36-year military career,” said Gov. Rounds. “He is very respected by both peers and subordinates and is dedicated to leading this department in service to the state of South Dakota.”

Doohen was appointed by Gov. Rounds as South Dakota’s 20<sup>th</sup> adjutant general on Sept. 16, 2007. As the adjutant general, he serves as the commanding general of both the South Dakota Air and Army National Guard where he guides the preparation of 4,400 Soldiers and Airmen, and 950 full-time federal and state employees to respond in times of state or national emergency

Doohen is responsible for federal and state missions, assignment of leaders, recruiting, training, equipping, mobilization, facilities and public relations. He is also responsible for formulating, developing, and coordinating all policies, plans and programs affecting Air and Army National Guard members in South Dakota.

“I am truly looking forward to working with all of our various veterans’ agencies and my fellow Guard members,” said Doohen. “You can always tell the quality of an organization by the people it attracts and retains. I am just so impressed with the men and women that make up the National Guard and the agencies charged with caring for those who have served.”

Maj. Gen. Doohen serves on the governor’s cabinet as the secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs. In this capacity, he is the principle advisor to the governor on military and veteran matters.

Doohen joined the South Dakota Air National Guard in January of 1971. Thereafter, he attended the Academy of Military Sciences at McGhee Tyson, Tenn., and received his commission in 1971. He completed pilot training at Laredo Air Force Base in 1972. He is a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours of tactical flight time in the F-100, A-7 and F-16 aircrafts.

Doohen is a graduate of the Air War College at the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala.

The newest leader of the South Dakota Guard has held almost every command and staff position within the Sioux Falls based 114<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, to include 114<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Commander. Prior to the appointment as the adjutant general, he served as the assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Doohen has several awards and decorations to include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

The rank of major general has not always been the insignia worn by the leader of the state's National Guard. The first adjutant general of the Dakota Territory, Charles P. Booge, held the position from 1862-1865 with the rank of brigadier general, and was followed by James L. Kelly who held the rank of colonel.

It was not until 1964 that the state Legislature passed a statute setting the rank of major general for the most senior position of the state's National Guard. Before then, the state rank was determined by the governor during the appointment.

Today, the adjutant general, in the rank of major general, at the time of appointment shall be a federally recognized commissioned officer of the South Dakota National Guard, with no less than ten years military service in the armed forces of the state or of the United States.

The officer appointed to the position of adjutant general shall meet all of the requirements of the officer's respective service and receive federal recognition as a general officer in that service, including any waivers that may be authorized and granted or delegated by the secretaries of the Army or Air Force, as appropriate.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.

**Photo Cut Line:**

**071004-A-5701M-010:** Governor M. Michael Rounds along with Mrs. Gloria Doohen pin a second star on Brig. Gen. Steven R. Doohen promoting him to the rank of major general during a ceremony held on Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Capitol Rotunda in Pierre. Maj. Gen. Steven R. Doohen became the 20th Adjutant General of the South Dakota National Guard on September 16, 2007, when Governor Rounds appointed him to the position as well as secretary of the South Dakota Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Army National Guard Photo by Sgt 1st Class Donald Matthews. (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/071004-A-5701M-010.jpg>

**Note 1: Air Force General Officer Ranks**

Brigadier General – One silver star

Major General – Two silver stars

Lieutenant General – Three silver stars

General – Four silver stars

General of the Air Force – Five silver stars

Adjutant General – This is a position and not a rank, like the attorney general or the inspector general.

**NOTE 2:** Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 2,900 Soldiers and 700 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

During the peak of deployments, South Dakota had more than 1,500 Soldiers in Iraq at one time.

Currently, about 150 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 4,000 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.